PUDUKKOTTAI STATE
NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU

BULLETIN] MAY 23, 1942 [No. 96

HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY'S MESSAGE TO MADRAS.

"These are grave and anxious days for all of us, and Madras is in the fore-front of the battle. I have wished to see your problems for myself, to meet again those who are dealing with them, to satisfy myself that nothing was being left undone over which I could help you, and to renew, at this critical moment, a friendship and association with the Presidency that has lasted for so many years.

"Short as my visit has inevitably had to be, I am happy indeed to find Madras and its people in excellent heart. I have every confidence in their spirit. I trust they may be spared the pain of war in their own country. But, if the call comes, I am sure that they will acquit themselves with the utmost credit.

"I have in my short visit inspected the defences of this part of India. I find them steadily improving, as indeed you may all of you see for yourselves. You may rest assured that that expansion and consolidation will continue. I am glad to see the work of A. R. P. and Civil Defence in such good shape. And it has been a deep satisfaction and a real encouragement to me to inspect so many of the troops stationed in the Presidency, to see for myself their keenness, their efficiency, their martial spirit, and to know how strong and substantial a barrier they are to enemy aggression.

Madras has made already a great contribution to War Effort. But she can do more still, and I call on her to do it. She can, in particular, by energetic and whole-hearted support of the National War Front, buttress the work of the fighting forces who are defending her, and present to the enemy that solid unity that is so vital. I look to you, one and all, under the inspiring lead—never lacking—of your Governor, to play your part. What is at stake is the safety of your country, the safety of your homes. The call is insistent and immediate—let there be no falterers among us to-day: let us unite and stand together for India. To the historic tradition of this great Presidency I know that my appeal will not be in vain.

'THE NATIONAL WAR FRONT'

I
'MOBILISE THE WILL TO WIN.'

Inangurating the National War Front on May 16, His Excellency the Governor of Bombay said:—

"We are familiar with other forms of mobilisation—the mobilisation of navies, armies and air forces, and of industry and transport to serve them. But no less important than any of these is this mobilisation of the will of every citizen to help in the defeat of the enemy. Indeed, it is a matter as vital as anything else."

"The Front will have much to do. It will have to build up its organisation in every part of the province. It will, I have no doubt, make mass attacks on its objectives, by means of meetings and literature.

"To the individual will fall the task of spreading its fighting message wherever his daily round may take him—in the factory, in the market place, in the village chowki, on the bus or on the train, in the restaurant, in the street and in the home. It is the individual approach which will count most."

COURAGE WILL BE PUT TO TEST.

"I cannot promise you that we in this province will always remain as far from danger as we are to-day, or that our courage will not be put to the same test which many others have had to face. But let us steel our will to resist, and let us keep always in our hearts the certainty that the strength of the United Nations will prevail, and that our righteous cause will triumph.

"Those who join the National War Front must have faith in the cause which they support. There is no room in the Front for those who are not sure whether or not they condemn the Fascist or the Nazi way.

"There is no room for those who think that it does not much matter which side wins. It will matter, very much and for many generations, in this and every other country in the world, who wins in this titanic struggle."

AGAINST ALL ASSAULTS OF ENEMY.

"This National War Front, stands for the cause which has right, decency, hope on its side. It upholds on the home front what the men on the battle-field are dying for.

It marches in the proud company of the peoples of the United Nations. Join it and march with it, and help to build up a front which will hold till the day of victory, against all the assaults which the cunning or the brutality of the enemy may launch against us."

II

JOIN THE NATIONAL DEFENCE FRONT.

DEVELOPE THE WILL TO RESIST

1. National sentiment, National honour, National safety, demand that you join the National War Front immediately.

2. It is a matter of national honour that we should stand firm, and if necessary suffer, in defence of the mother-land.

3. The people of Britain, Russia, and China have stood up to the worst that the enemy could do to them, and so have saved themselves. If they can take it, so can India. Endurance has ever been India's strength.

4. China has sent her troops for the Defence of India. It is a point of honour that India should reciprocate. India stands solid with China in resistance to Japan.

5. It would be a disgrace to India to show any sympathy with Japan or the Nazi-Fascist Powers. India is united in her hatred of aggression and force; she stands for world-security and the reign of Law among the nations. She knows that, whatever the immediate dangers, this war can and will be ultimately won by the combined strength of the British Commonwealth, America, Russia, and China. In this world struggle for Freedom India is determined to play a part worthy of herself, her great past and her future destiny.

AVOID PANIC

1. Beware of the enemy who tries to spread panic and defeatism because they will help his task. Some of those who spread panic are his secret agents and others his unconscious tools.

Defeatism is a dangerous form of panic ; it weakens the spirit of resistance.

Panic does not help any one: it can only increase danger and add to suffering by :—

1. Undermining morale, and letting loose the elements of disorder.
2. Hampering the efforts of Government to defeat the enemy.
3. Interrupting the flow of munitions and supplies to the army.

HELP NATIONAL DEFENCE AS FOLLOWS :—

1. Promote harmony and co-operation among all classes.
2. Assist the authorities in all war measures.
3. Maintain confidence and courage in all circumstances.
4. Eradicate all elements of panic and disorder and all talk, thought, writings and rumours tending thereto. All enemy broadcasts should be discredited.
5. Confide in the Government and strengthen their hands. Any denial of support will only make their task more difficult and betray the National interest. National defence and national safety must override all other aims and ambitions until victory is won. The National Defence Front claims every citizen of India, whatever his creed ; no one need change his own views in order to support it.
6. Beware of Fifth-Columnists. While we are engaged in the grim task of facing the enemy we cannot afford to tolerate traitors in our midst.

LECTURE XCVI.

GERMAN PROPAGANDA IN TURKEY.

There are very few neutral countries left in Europe and of these not all are strictly neutral. There are four capitals from which press correspondents both allied and axis, who are stationed there as observers as well as local correspondents may write pretty freely. These are Lisbon, Stockholm, Berne and Ankara.

Lisbon serves allied correspondents as a centre of news from France, Italy, Spain and North Africa. It serves Axis correspondents for North America, Britain, West and South Africa. The first reason is that one can get there all the papers of the respective countries pretty quickly, and also a certain amount of information from travellers. Stockholm serves as clearing ground for Germany and Russia, mainly because the Swedish papers are nearly the only neutural papers to maintain correspondents in various foreign countries, because they are rich, and to-day it is a luxury to be able to afford a correspondent, what with the increased cost of living, and astronomical 'phone and cable tolls. The same applies to Berne, which is conveniently situated for Central Europe. But one of the most important capitals on the whole of the globe at present is Ankara, and when we say Ankara, we include Istanbul.

POLITICAL AND STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE.

Turkey presented, and still presents, many advantages for the foreign correspondent. Politically speaking, it is the only country that has remained strictly neutral throughout the conflict, and owing to its size and geographical position—we shall come back to the geographical position—Turkey has been much courted and relatively little subjected to pressure from the belligerents. It entertains diplomatic relations with all countries in the world, and especially with all European and Middle East countries. It is also known that Turkey does a lot of trade with all countries, at least theoretically and on paper—which warrants the arrival and departure of business-men from various parts of the continent and the Middle East.

From the geographical point of view, Turkey affords a convenient outlook on Europe, but especially on the south-east, the Dodecanese Islands, and the whole of the Middle East. Trade with all these countries is more active than with the rest of the world—except with the British Empire, which does most of the trading with Turkey.

Turkey still possesses communications by wireless with the rest of the globe, and also a powerful broadcasting station which served, and we hope will serve again, foreign correspondents of various large American broadcasting systems. From Ankara and Istanbul, therefore, one covered the Balkan campaigns and Crete, and also the Iraqi rebellion and Syrian interlude, as well as the occupation of Iran.

What applies to Allied correspondents also applies to Axis pressmen. Expelled from all the Middle East countries, after the progressive breaking off of diplomatic relations between these countries and the Axis, they have as their last outpost Turkey from where they can send their messages. They enjoy the same liberties and advantages as their Allied opposite numbers, and use or misuse them, as the case may be, freely.

TURKISH FAIRNESS.

Turkish consorship there is none, at least one does not see it. It happens frequently, however, that a number of cables arrive late when the story is "dead", and the cable offices in Turkey make use of two paragraphs in the M drid International Tele-communications Agreement, which says that cables threatening the security of a country may be stopped without explanation. What threatens the security of a nation is left to personal appreciation, and is difficult to check. Experience, however, has shown that the Turkish authorities have not abused this rule. There certainly is a difficulty for the Turks also, and that is they cannot often see the papers which carry the messages, and since in some parts of the country, for instance Istanbul, there is a state of siege, the authorities have a certain right in exceptional circumstances to decide whether a certain item is harmful or not. It is therefore, necessary to read the cables before they go, but taken all in all, the news gets to its destination. From the professional point of view this is of course a great nuisance, but has to be accepted as one of the inevitables of general war conditions.

A NEW TECHNIQUE.

Now you will see why it was necessary to give such a laborious introduction to an article which is going to deal with the **nerve-war**. The answer is, because the nerve-war which is waged unseen in Turkey leaks out and is propagated through two channels to the rest of the world : the press, and people travelling on business, emigrating, or just travelling for pleasure. The Turkish Government does a good deal to prevent the spreading of false rumours, but each correspondent when he has picked up a story is generally unaware of the trap he has fallen into, and will stick to his story, even at the risk of getting into trouble—that is if he is *bonafide*.

Germany has always been on the offensive in matters of propaganda throughout the world, and it is the same in Turkey too. For one reason, he who has the military offensive also gets most of the credit, and secondly, whereas the German journalists work in close unison and for the account of the German Propaganda Ministry, Allied journalists work for highly commercialised institutions in acute campetition with each other, and for some irate editor or sleepless sub-editor, who never having been abroad has his own views on international policy.

German propaganda in Turkey has two objects in view: 1, to cultivate the sympathy of the Turkish masses and make them pro-German, 2, to throw out a smoke screen of false rumours, in the hope that these will be picked up by foreign correspondents both Allied and Axis, and then make the round of the world.

AGENCE ANATOLIE.

There is a certain difficulty in obtaining concrete results as far as the main objective is concerned, to win over the Turkish masses. The Turkish Government has taken a decision at the beginning of the war, which had been approved, and I believe even suggested, by the newspaper proprietors. It was decided that no newspaper should maintain foreign correspondents abroad. All the foreign news was to be procured through the ANADOLU AJANSI (Agence Anatolie), which was a private company with Government participation, and is now under the control of the Turkish Government. This semi-official agency has the right to send correspondents to foreign countries, if and when the interest of the newspapers demand it. So far this agency has correspondents in London, Berlin, and Cairo, and is considering the possibility of sending a man to Teheran.

The task of the agency is not easy. A huge amount of copy pours in daily from allied and bogus agencies, is selected with discernment and then finds its way into the press. The printing of foreign news from other sources is prohibited. Broadcasts cannot be printed unless they are handed over to the papers through the agency, which has a special service for the B.B.C., and Havas Telemondial bulletins issued early in the morning, which find their way into two noon papers in Istanbul. The papers asked for this themselves, because they come out only a few hours after the morning papers, and must have some special feature to secure them an average circulation. It is, therefore, very difficult for the Germans to play on the Press directly.

GERMAN CUNNING.

But with all the limited possibilities, the Germans make full use of all the small openings. For instance, no one has obliged the Editors to put in an equal amount of news from Allied and Axis sources. There is a daily Istanbul paper in German called "Turkische Post", and a French daily run by a Vichy Frenchman, the former of which uses only German sources and British ones when they confirm losses or defeats, the latter both, but with the difference that it gives the German news more display. Other newspapers have been encouraged to print more German news, having been promised a certain number of subscribers among the German, Italian and other Axis nationals. But even this is not sufficient to influence public opinion, because little secrets and arrangements will out, and they become either a joke among the intellectual classes, or the *bonafide* reader backs out and cancels his subscription, going over to another newspaper.

The Germans are therefore forced to use the whispering campaign as their most important weapon for propaganda in Turkey. In the first place no one knows where the rumour has started and in a few days it confronts its own

author in a glorified form. There are two towns in Turkey which are most suited to this kind of warfare. They are Istanbul and Smyrna. They are the largest towns in Turkey, they are industrial and commercial towns and therefore inhabited by all classes of people. They have a population mainly composed of minorities and Levantines. The latter term applies to various nationals who have been living in Turkey under the system of capitulation for centuries, benefiting by this artificial protection, and inter-marrying so effectively that it is no wonder if a *bonafide* British citizen finds out that he descends from a German ancestor and Circassian odalisque.

TURKISH MINORITIES.

Not all the minorities have grudges against the Turks, nor have the Turks against all the minorities, but the minorities wage war amongst each other for economic reasons. The really anti-Turk minority is the Armenian colony in Turkey. In the last war they were with the British as a matter of principle, dealing stabs in the back when and where opportunity afforded a chance. In this war, feeling that the majority of Turkish opinion is pro-Allied, they have automatically developed an anti-British complex. What is more, Armenians are prosperous merchants throughout the Middle East, and inter-trade as well as inter-marry. Being doped with anti-British propaganda in Istanbul, they carry the news across the frontiers into other Middle East countries, and bring back anti-British propaganda from the rebel Arabs, for use by the Germans. The Greeks and the Jews cannot be anti-British in this war and are really no danger. There is also a slight discrimination apparent in the dealings of the Turkish authorities with the minorities, which seems to confirm that the Turkish Government is taking this view.

But where all minorities become a danger is when their economic interests are at stake. Trade in the larger towns is still mostly in the hands of the Armenians, Jews and Greeks—seeing that Turkey freed herself economically only after the treaty of Lausanne. If the Armenians could only persuade themselves to trade honestly, it would be all right, and this applies to a certain degree to the other minorities as well, but they want more and want it quickly.

TRADING ON FEARS.

The Germans have understood the possibilities of this only too well. It is enough to tell the Armenians, 'we, the Germans, are coming this way—that is through Turkey'—and the latter begin rubbing their hands. By spreading the rumour among the Jews they create a panic in the hope that the latter will sell out. The Jews begin to be worried and start buying gold or hoarding. The prices go up, the Greeks must have a rake off in this show, and the Turks begin to ask what is happening. **The rumours then spread, backed by tangible evidence like a "bull" on the local goods exchange or "bear"**

as the case may be. It is easy after this to get the story out to foreign correspondents, who quote " well informed sources ". The rumours are turned to news, and the next day the Turks hear it in their own language broadcast either from Boston or Timbuctoo, and begin to believe it. The Levantines are also good carriers, and help spreading the news knowingly or unknowingly among the intellectuals. The technique illustrated above is the simplest form of the war of nerves.

FAKED REPORTS.

There are, however, two important alternatives. The first is to impress public opinion in another country with what is happening in a third country. Thus for instance the Germans have stationed a DNB correspondent at Adana in south-eastern Anatolia. He covers the Middle East and Iran, and also, if you please, India.

He cables news of revolts in Egypt, mutiny among the Empire troops in God-knows where, and alleged sabotage of pipe-lines in Iraq. He also turns commonplace incidents into revolutions. For instance, there are still rebel tribes in Iran, who provide runners and horsemen who smuggle news out of Iran. The Turks cannot stop them, nor can the Allies prevent them from using mountain passes. The most trivial incident which happened in Teheran, related by one of these becomes immediately, either an Iranian rebellion or a free fight between British and Russians. The same tactics apply to India. For some time past, when it was first learnt that Sir Stafford Cripps was going to India, the Germans started sending news from Adana, news which they had obtained from travellers, or so they say, which gave a highly exaggerated picture of discontent throughout India.

All these reports go to the occupied countries and Axis vassal states in order to stiffen morale. They know now the Empire is breaking to pieces, and how the Allies must lose the War, not only because they will be beaten on the battlefield, but because the Empire forces are disintegrating. Otherwise there is no reason why Rumanian and Croat papers should devote so much space to India, instead to their own food shortage problems. In this alternative the Germans use their own correspondents and rake their own brains.

SUBTLE METHODS.

But there is a still more difficult alternative to which the Germans now turn freely. It is difficult to discover how the rumour starts, how it it is turned into news, how it goes out of the country, how it does its little bit of harm abroad and then returns in amplified form to Turkey. This alternative aims to kill two birds with one stone : to spread false rumours about Turkey abroad and then reimport the amplified story by other means to Turkey and demonstrate " ad absurdum " the truth of the original rumour.

Let us take for instance an example of quite recent date. Ever since the beginning of the War the Germans were saying that Turkey will change her attitude and go pro-German. They were even suggesting it as a "fait accompli" on the very evening when the British Ambassador in Ankara, Sir Hugh Knatchbull-Hugessen, unnoticed by anyone, put on his oldest hat, and hands in his pockets strolled round to the Turkish Foreign Minister's house, a few hundred yards away, in order to put the finishing touches to what developed into the Anglo-French Turkish Treaty of Alliance signed in autumn 1939.

Pianissimo or fortissimo, according to circumstances, the same song was chanted since that day, until a few days ago it broke out in rather a louder tone than usual. First, a good whispering campaign to the effect that all was wrong with the Anglo-Turkish Alliance. Then a few hints about Papen's journey to Berlin and the Turkish Ambassador's return to Ankara. Papen very cleverly remarks to the Bulgarian Press on his way through Sofia "that German-Turkish relations are very friendly." **Then the Wilhelmstrasse, used to commenting and giving its opinion on anything from the drowning of a dog in Alaska to the significance of Albania declaring War on the United States, says something wise like** "it is understood in well informed German circles that Herr Von Papen is expected shortly", which sends people into all corners wondering why they stress the fact that he is arriving when everybody knew that he had left. Then a few Armenians go to Syria, and begin whispering about a "change in Turkish policy." The same Armenians then come back and say that the Arabs are simply waiting for a change of policy. Then the whisper is magnified a little bit more and it becomes "Germany is being more friendly to Turkey, and the Arabs are waiting for this change."

Here the rumour undergoes a polishing process. Why should the Germans want to change their policy or why the Turks? And if so, what must they do, seeing that they already have a Pact of Friendship. The reply is simple: one signs a secret treaty. **A secret treaty is the most convenient weapon for Axis propaganda.**

In the first place, no one knows what it is about, and those whose business it is to say they know, can find hundreds of versions suiting various propaganda efforts and directions. Seeing that Europeans still think that Turkish policy is something of a mystery, with eunuchs and harems, grand viziers and lots of blood, and plenty of secrecy, the first round is easily won. We now possess the polished rumour.

This again is put round in circulation by means of a new whispering campaign, and then carefully led by various channels to those inside men or tip-offs every decent journalist must have in a foreign country. These

"inside men "or " tip-offs", as they are called, are people who work on local newspapers, gossip in coffee houses and are the generally "well informed sources" we have all been reading about. Their only real advantage is that they speak the language of the country, whereas the foreign journalist rarely does. It is best when such a rumour reaches a neutral journalist.

VICHY'S ROLE.

Until the entry of the United States into the War, the most convenient channel was that of the American press and news agencies. Lately, however, this route was closed, but instead we have the effective HAVAS OFI agency in Vichy and Clermont Ferrand. Having again established a rapid news service—because translation in British and American offices makes a message sometimes hours late—**it also pours out a series of false rumours.**

For instance, the secret treaty between Germany and Turkey, and the liberation of the Arabs, attack on India through the backdoor or better via Afghanistan. The message is sent from here to Vichy. It need not necessarily be sent by its own correspondent, but by the DNB or any other bogus German agency. It is then given on to Vichy. Vichy then sends it out on its overseas service. As this little item has no importance whatever in South America, it goes to Indo-China. There the Japanese pounce on it, having been warned in time, and let the French do the broadcasting from Radio Saigon. But the rumour is not primarily intended for India, but for Turkey where it comes back this time from Axis sources with lots of marginal notes. And, now that the news item is back again, who will not believe that the Axis countries must know something about this secret treaty, which one of the partners is going to sign or has in all probability, done so?

GOEBBELS' GAME.

This is why extreme caution should prevail when a reader reads or hears a broadcast coming from Axis countries about Turkey.

Now Germany is on the verge of her spring offensive. Everybody would like to know, and perhaps the Germans would like to know too. They would perhaps not be indifferent to a small diversion if this could be successfully accomplished in time for the big show. They also want to keep all possible victims uneasy, and would like at the same time to keep Empire troops on the move. Here again the resort to a neutral country and especially to Turkey.

Turkey has the advantage of being a possible victim, it is an ally of Great Britain, and could come in handy for a bit of "straffing". Turkey is also interested in the Middle East, and in southern Russia and the Caucasus. Through Turkey one can get the reactions of the Middle East countries. The Empire is keen on protecting Turkey should the country be attacked, and also

keen on keeping the troops somewhere else. At the same time, the Germans want to find out what Turkey is planning, and what the British troop dispositions are.

So the nerve war is started, and the Germans lose no time and burrow deep into their store of imagination. Contradictory reports crop up, intentions of attack here, alleged German weaknesses there, German losses, bad morale in Germany, good morale in Germany, all these statements and many others are tried here and then somewhere else, issued by the same sources and then denied by them. The newspaper correspondent, however cautious, is bound to pick one or even the totality of all these rumours and send the ball spinning along. And during this mad dance of news, rumours statements and declarations, picked men sit up day and night and do nothing but compare notes.

The whole world's press is shifted and compared. An indication here, an indication there, helps to fit the jig-saw puzzle together, and weaknesses are probed, reactions captured. And what does the British Press do?

BRITISH PRESS.

Well—although this is gratifying from the professional point of view—the British Press is hard on the defensive. When a correspondent is fired for misleading reports, or missed scoop, he has not much time to join in the game which now all the Axis correspondents are indulging earning fat subsidies from their respective Governments. **Although this is by no means a golden Rule, it is safe to say: " Whenever you read a report about Turkey, wait till you see it reported by a British agency or newspaper, you will then not be far off the truth ". And if you do not believe this, start comparing messages yourself like the men who sit up night and day. You will find that the British Press gives you an almost accurate picture.**

WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

16—5—42 to 22—5—42.

China.—(1) Japanese columns driving along the Mekong River from THAILAND and INDO-CHINA entered CHINA simultaneously with the advance along from LUNGLING.

(2) Chinese reinforcements crossing the Salween have driven the enemy back in the TENCHING, LUNGLING and MONGSHI regions. American Volunteer Group pilots made a smashing attack on Japanese trains in the

YUNNAN—INDO-CHINA Railway. A Japanese column advancing north-east from LUNGLING along the west bank of the Salween has been driven back. The Japanese attempt to reach PAOSHAN along the caravan route from TENGCHUNG has been frustrated by Chinese counter-attacks at KUIMENG, LUNGLING and MANGSHI. The west bank of the Salween has been cleared of the enemy. A Japanese force at HUNGMUSHU, in YUNNAN has been decimated and the remnants are now retreating to TATSAI.

(3) Opening an offensive in the SHAN STATES, the Japanese have attacked KENGTUNG and are fighting near MONGLEN, MONGHAI and KONGKUM.

(4) They have also opened another offensive in the Chinese coastal province of CHEKIANG, and have reached CHUKI—50 miles north-east of KINHWAFA, the capital. The Chinese have counter-attacked at SHENGSHIEN—south-east of CHUKI.

(5) Japanese troops have been expelled from FENGYU, south-west of HANGKOW.

(6) Chinese troops have recaptured HOHSHIN—25 miles south-west of NANKING—the seat of the puppet capital.

Burma.—(1) Chinese advance guards have come wi hin 25 miles of MYITKYINA in northern BURMA, and within striking distance of WANTING.

(2) U. S. bombers of General Brereton's command carried out day-light attacks on MYITKYINA.

(3) On May 10 the Japanese made a last effort to trap General Alexander's forces at SHAWEGYIN on the Chindwin river, but the Imperial forces brushing them aside crossed the river intact. Since reaching SHWEBO there has been no contact with the enemy, and the movement of the British forces has continued unhampered. The Imperial forces have also made one or two unopposed landings on both banks of the Chindwin near KALEWA.

A Gallant Rear-Guard.—Under this 'heading' the *Times* pays a worthy tribute to General Alexander's campaign in BURMA. It says:—

"The long and stubborn defence offered by the Imperial troops and their Chinese Ally has given INDIA five months to prepare, and perhaps, further respite during the monsoon rains.

"Yet from the first to the last retreat General Alexander's army has been ordered and controlled. It has fended off Japanese pursuit, found time to organise protection and provisioning for retreating refugees, wrecked bridges, factories, barracks, docks and oil-wells—everything which the enemy might have utilised, and destroyed all war material which unbridged rivers, or roadless jungle and mountainside, have compelled it to abandon."

Speaking on the same subject Mr. C. R. Attlee, Deputy Prime-Minister told the House of Commons on Tuesday:

'The action has been conducted with great skill and obstinacy. Essentially it has been a delaying action, while we were bringing out forces by air, sea and land. But our forces and the Chinese have inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy and put up a very fine fight.'

India.—On May 16 and 18 respectively, enemy aircraft bombed a mofussil town and village in Eastern ASSAM. The casualties were very slight and the damage negligible.

On May 20 R. A. F. bombers attacked enemy targets on the Chindwin River near Kalewa. AKYAB was raided twice on May 19.

Referring to INDIA in the House of Commons Mr. Attlee stated:—'We are doing all we can to strengthen our forces in INDIA. We have strengthened our forces in CEYLON and anticipated a possible Japanese attack by the occupation of DIEGO SUAREZ. We are strengthening our position in the Indian Ocean.'

The change of the 'Southern Command' into 'Southern Army' recently announced from NEW DELHI is an event of importance for the defence of Southern INDIA. Operational Headquarters have been organised and a tour of inspection by the Commander has shown the physical fitness and excellent morale of the troops. The Army is growing every day in efficiency and numbers. It has been organised on a field service basis, ready to strike at any point at the shortest notice. The Command has alternative plans to oppose any attempt at landing. There is perfect co-ordination between the different branches of the service.

Australia.—During the week the Japanese occupied DEBOYNE in the LOUISIADE group and raided MORESBY. Australian Air forces raided KOEPANG (TIMOR), LAE and RABAUL. Since MacArthur took over the command, the R. A. A. F. has destroyed 77 enemy planes and damaged 100 more in S. W. Pacific.

Referring to the Australian situation Mr. Attlee said on May 19 :—

'We are strengthening our position in the Indian Ocean, but the Japanese forces may strike in another direction—against AUSTRALIA and NEW ZEALAND.

'Time is of the essence of the problem. It is far easier to send forces from AMERICA to AUSTRALIA than from BRITAIN. This was recognised in the discussions on the general lay-out of our strategic co-operation with the UNITED STATES. The Pacific area from a line drawn down the west coast of AUSTRALIA was allotted to the U. S. as an American responsibility, and the U. S. has sent large land and air forces to AUSTRALIA, and her fleet operates in these waters.

'In AUSTRALIA during these last months, our strength has been steadily piling up, and under General MacArthur's leadership we can be confident, should the Japanese risk an attack on AUSTRALIA, that they will get an extremely warm reception.'

Libya.—British patrols continue to engage and disperse small groups of enemy tanks and vehicles. British aircraft have raided transports and camps in the MECHILI, SENGALI, TENGENDER, BENGHAZI, SOLUCH and MSUS regions.

Two new German Generals, Nehring and Bismarck, have come to LIBYA, and Hitler's Afrika Corps and the Italian Libyan divisions have been strengthened by the arrival of reinforcements from Southern ITALY, GREECE and CRETE, following on the intensified assaults on MALTA. The British Air strength has been correspondingly increased, and the desert *blitz* weapons consisting of tanks and mobile artillery have been doubled. Field Marshal Smuts, who lately visited the front, after stating that the Army was at the top of its form, told Pressmen in CAIRO in Monday, 'Not only would the MIDDLE EAST be defended, but there was a possibility that it would become a great offensive base'. General Smuts made a rapid tour of EGYPT and CYRENAICA covering 2,000 miles in 10 days, making about 5 speeches a day; he visited camps, hospitals, and areodromes, and conferred with General Auchinleck, Mr. Casey, Minister, MIDDLE EAST, King Farouk of EGYPT and King George of the Hellenes.

Russia—At KHARKOV the great 'Battle of steel' is proceeding, and in a matter of 5 days Timoshenko has been able to advance about 37 miles along a length of 100 miles, piercing the enemy's first line of defences. One of the most telling proofs of the signal success achieved is the

number of tanks, guns, lorries and ammunition dumps captured. As the *Annalist* has observed, in these offensives, it is not occupation of territory—though 400 villages have been retaken—that is so very important as the surrender of soldiers and munitions.

Having failed to hold the Soviet offensive on the KHARKOV front despite their immense strength of armour, the Germans have launched a new offensive, by way of diversion, in the direction of ISYUM and BARVENKOVA.

The town of KERCH has perhaps fallen, although the Russians are still holding out in the old Turkish fortress of YENIKABH, and the struggle in the peninsula continues. Although KERCH and KHARKOV are in the lime light, important battles are taking place along the 1000 zig-zag front, at LENINGRAD, KALININ, SMOLENSK, DOROGOBUSH and BRIANSK.

President Roosevelt has stated that the lease-and-lend shipments to RUSSIA were proceeding satisfactorily, and had risen steadily from 18 million dollars worth in March 1941 to 518 million dollars worth at present. Speaking on the subject of British help Mr. Attlee observed :—

'We are keeping to our promised programme of deliveries to RUSSIA. That is not easy. The sea route *via* MURMANSK is very difficult. It puts a strain on our mercantile, marine and our naval forces, but we are perfectly certain that we are right, at whatever risks, to continue to do the utmost to support our Russian Ally.

'We are helping in another way. We are containing large enemy forces, notably air forces in LIBYA. MALTA is not only defending herself but occupying large numbers of German planes. Our heavy attacks on GERMANY, our day-light sweeps, our commando raids and the threat of other raids keep away forces from the Russian front'.

The R. A. F. has resumed its sweeps over North FRANCE, and BELGIUM and its raids on GERMANY.

Miscellaneous.—(1) *Mexico*. Following on the sinking of the MEXICAN tankers *Petrero del Llano* off MIAMI by an Axis U-boat on Wednesday the 13th, MEXICO has sent a protest through SWEDEN to GERMANY, ITALY and JAPAN demanding satisfaction and compensation.

(2) *The U. S.-Panama Agreement*. An agreement has been signed by the U. S. and PANAMA governments providing for the defence of the Panama Canal by the American armed forces.

(3) *The United Nations' Air Conference* was opened by Mr. Mackenzie King, the Prime Minister of CANADA at OTTAWA on Tuesday, at which 16 nations were represented. The aim of the conference is to extend the Empire Training Scheme which has already been in operation in CANADA for over two years. In a message sent to the conference, Mr. Roosevelt observed :—

'Particularly fitting is that this conference should be held in CANADA, for CANADA has increasingly become the *aerodrome of Democracy*, sending from her training fields thousands of her own young men and men of the other United Nations to fight the cause of Liberty over all the battlefields of this planetary war.'

Opening the conference, Mr. Mackenzie King said :—

" In relation to the great area of the combat, CANADA and the U. S. are coming to have interior lines of communication. This country is at the very centre of the war which is all round us. In aerial warfare on a global scale we of the North American continent have a distinct advantage in that we are able in the disposition of our forces in relation either to the Atlantic or to the Pacific Oceans freely to cross the continent itself.'

(4) A large contingent of American troops, including tanks and field artillery, convoyed by the American and British Navies have disembarked, without incident in Northern IRELAND. It is not known whether they have arrived to garrison Northern IRELAND or to serve as a nucleus for the eventual invasion of the continent.

ALLIED Air Raids over ENEMY and ENEMY-occupied COUNTRIES.

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Allies.	Aircraft losses for Enemies.
11—5—42 (Monday).				
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
DAY:—				
	A strongly escorted enemy convoy off the FRISIAN Islands.	One enemy ship sunk.	2 planes.	1 plane.
NIGHT:—				
	An escorted enemy convoy near AALESUND (off the Norwegian coast.)	The largest ship set on fire.		
	LIBYA. (By British planes).			
	Offensive sweeps over the forward areas in CYRENAICA.			

ALLIED Air Raids over ENEMY and ENEMY-occupied COUNTRIES—*cont.*

Date. Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Allies.	Aircraft losses for Enemies.
11—5—42. (Monday)—cont.			
RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).			
Air combats and grounded aircraft along the entire front.		16 planes.	42 planes.
FAR EAST—BURMA. (By American and British planes).			
An aerodrome in North BURMA.			
12—5—42 (Tuesday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
No information available.			
LIBYA. (By British planes).			
Offensive sweeps over CYRENAICA.			
MEDITERRANEAN. (By British planes).			
Troop carrying enemy planes over the MEDITERRANEAN.		1 plane.	15 planes.
RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).			
Air combats and aircraft on the ground along the whole front.		17 planes.	51 planes.
FAR EAST—BURMA. (By American and British planes).			
The aerodrome at AKYAB.			
CHINA. (By American and British planes).			
Enemy occupied aerodrome of HANOI.			15 planes.
13—5—42 (Wednesday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
NIGHT :—			
A medium-sized enemy supply ship near AALESUND (near NORWAY).	Set on fire.		
A ship near VAAGSO (NORWAY).	A total wreck.		
LIBYA. (By British planes).			
Military objectives in LIBYA.			
Offensive sweeps over CYRENAICA.			
RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).			
Air combats and aircraft on the ground along the whole front.		23 planes.	40 planes.
FAR EAST—BURMA. (By American and British planes).			
The aerodrome at AKYAB.			
NEW BRITAIN. (By American and British planes).			
The aerodrome and the shipping in the harbour at RABAUL.	3 bombers blown to pieces.	Other planes damaged.	
AMBOINA (N. E. I.). (By American and British planes).			
Enemy shipping at AMBOINA.	One vessel sunk ; two others hit.		
14—5—42 (Thursday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
No information available about day and night air activity.			
LIBYA. (By British planes).			
The harbour and shipping at BENGHAZI. **The aerodromes** at MARTUBA and BENINA. **Offensive sweeps** over the forward areas of CYRENAICA.		2 planes.	
RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).			
Air combats and aircraft on the ground along the whole front.		11 planes.	25 planes.
FAR EAST—BURMA. (By American and British planes).			
Enemy barges on the CHINDWIN River.	Many barges sunk.		
DEBOYNE Island. (By American and British planes).			
The seaplane base at DEBOYNE.			

15—5—42 (Friday).

GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).

DAY:—

Targets	Damage	Enemies	Allies
3 German minesweepers off the north coast of CHERBOURG Peninsula.	2 sunk and one damaged.		No loss.

NIGHT:—

Targets	Damage	Enemies	Allies
German convoys off the FRISIAN Islands.	3 ships set on fire.		5 planes.
Laying mines in enemy waters.			

LIBYA. (By British planes).

Offensive sweeps over CYRENAICA.

RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).

Targets	Damage	Enemies	Allies
Air combats and grounded aircraft along the entire front.		13 planes.	56 planes.

FAR EAST—NEW GUINEA. (By American and British planes).

The aerodrome, runways and other buildings at LAE.

DEBOYNE Island. (By American and British planes).

Targets	Damage	Enemies	Allies
The seaplane base at DEBOYNE.		1 sea plane.	

16—5—42 (Saturday).

GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).

DAY:—

Targets	Damage	Enemies	Allies
Targets including gasholders, dock-gates and railways in occupied Northern FRANCE. **Offensive sweeps** over DIEPPE area.			No loss.

LIBYA. (By British planes).

Targets	Damage	Enemies	Allies
The harbour at BENGHAZI. **The aerodrome** at BENINA.			3 planes.

RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).

Targets	Damage	Enemies	Allies
Air combats and aircraft on the ground along the entire front.		20 planes.	65 planes.

FAR EAST—BURMA. (By American and British planes).

The aerodrome at MYITKYINA.

NEW GUINEA. (By American and British planes).

Reconnaisannce over the LAE area.

17—5—42 (Sunday).

GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).

DAY:—

Targets	Damage	Enemies	Allies
The docks at BOULOGNE. **Offensive sweeps** over targets in occupied FRANCE.			8 planes

NIGHT:—

No information available.

LIBYA. (By British planes).

The harbour at BENGHAZI.

RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).

Targets	Damage	Enemies	Allies
Air combats and grounded aircraft along the entire Soviet front.		21 planes.	64 planes.

FAR EAST—TIMOR (Dutch). (By American and British planes).

Shipping in KOEPANG Bay.

BURMA. (By American and British planes).

An enemy adrodrome in North BURMA.

18—5—42 (Monday).

FAR EAST—BURMA. (By American and British planes).

The aerodrome at AKYAB.

River craft and other targets on the CHINDWIN River.

ENEMY Air Raids over ALLIED Territories.

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for: Enemies	Allies.
12—5—42 (Tuesday).				

BRITAIN. (By German planes).

No information available.

MEDITERRANEAN. (By German planes).

Targets	Damage	Enemies	Allies
MALTA.		Day:—7 shot down 7 damaged. Night:—3 planes shot down.	

FAR EAST. (By Jap planes).

No information available.

ENEMY Air Raids over Allied Territories—*cont.*

Date. / Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Enemies	Aircraft losses for Allies
13—5—42 (Wednesday).			
BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
No enemy air activity.			
MEDITERRANEAN. (By German planes).			
MALTA.		1 plane.	
FAR EAST—NEW GUINEA. (By Jap planes).			
The aerodrome at Port MORESBY.		2 planes shot down ; 1 damaged.	
14—5—42 (Thursday).			
BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
South-west **coast of** ENGLAND.		1 plane.	
MEDITERRANEAN. (By German planes).			
MALTA.		8 planes.	
FAR EAST—NEW GUINEA (By Jap planes).			
Port MORESBY.		2 planes.	
15—5—42 (Friday).			
BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
NIGHT :—			
East coast of ENGLAND.		1 plane.	
MEDITERRANEAN. (By German planes).			
MALTA.			
FAR EAST. (By Jap planes).			
No information available.			
16—5—42 (Saturday).			
BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
No information available.			
MEDITERRANEAN. (By German planes).			
MALTA.			5 planes.
FAR EAST—NEW GUINEA. (By Jap planes).			
Reconnaissance over Port MORESBY.			
17—5—42 (Sunday).			
BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
DAY :—			
East coast of ENGLAND.			1 plane.
NIGHT :—			
No information available.			
MEDITERRANEAN. (By German planes).			
MALTA.		16 planes.	
FAR EAST. (By Jap planes).			
No information available.			
18—5—42 (Monday).			
BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
DAY :—			
South-east and South ENGLAND.	A few casualties and some damage.		
NIGHT :—			
No information available.			
MEDITERRANEAN. (By German planes).			
MALTA.			
FAR EAST—NEW GUINEA. (By Jap planes).			
Port MORESBY.		1 plane shot down ; 2 damaged.	

SIDE LIGHTS.

"WE SEE THE RIDGE AHEAD NOW." We have always believed that the best antidote to depression and doubt in these troublous times is to listen to Churchill occasionally and understand the deep significance of his words; for more than any one else he has the Pisgah vision of the future, a lion's heart, and the will to victory. Speaking in confident tones he told his countrymen at LEEDS on Saturday (May 16):—

"We have reached a period in the war when it would be premature to say that we have topped the ridge but we see the ridge ahead now.

"The United Nations will come to the top of the ridges, and then will have a chance not only of beating down and subduing those evil forces which have twice let ruin and havoc on the world, but they will have a further and grander prospect beyond the smoke of battle and confusion of the fight.

"Our perseverance will see us through these dark and dangerous valleys into a sunlight more lasting than mankind has never known.

"Here is the 33rd month of the war, none of us is calling for any favours from the enemy. If he plays rough, we can play rough too. Whatever we have got to take, we will take: and will give back in an even greater measure.

"It is not going to be brave men against men armed, but the fight of a people not only with a resolve and cause but who also have weapons."

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A PYRRHIC VICTORY. It is difficult for the layman, who looks only at immediate results and the superficial aspects of victory to appreciate the epic character of the struggle in BURMA. It is evident that withdrawals, in spite of their strategic importance, have no spectacular value; nor do they as the Viceroy lately remarked, win wars; but the careful student of contemporaneous events will see that the Imperial and Chinese forces have achieved a feat of high military worth, in maintaining themselves intact for a period of five months, cut off from supplies—and even inflicting, as occasion arose, counter-attacks of a damaging character, on an enemy continually reinforced from land and sea-bases.

In this connection a special word of commendation is due to the 5th and 6th Chinese, Armies which frustrated encirclement though exposed in the open valleys to formidable air and artillery attack.

The Allied campaign in BURMA had three objectives:—(1) to delay the enemy occupation till the new Indo-Chinese communications were completed;

(2) to gain time to strengthen the defences of INDIA and (3) to change his *blitz* into a war of attrition.

The Allies have gained at least two of these three objectives, and perhaps part of the third also. They have no doubt failed to the extent that the new roads have not yet been completed. On the other hand, the enemy's advance has been made more costly than for the Allies; valuable time has been secured to prepare the Indian defences; and the aggres-ion, which was originally of a *blitz* character has been retarded and halted, though it has yet to be turned into a retreat. The monsoon will soon break, overwhelming the enemy forces.

Moreover, the Allies have put the interval to good use. From the ALEUTIAN ISLANDS to ALASKA, from ALASKA to NEW GUINEA, from NEW GUINEA to MADAGASCAR through COLOMBO, the Allies have had time to throw a noose round the enemy which only awaits a favourable opportunity to be tightened. Land pressure is developing from INDIA, AUSTRALIA and CHINA. The American Fleet is not only 'in being' but has emerged, threatening the Japanese communications and JAPAN itself; and already signs are visible that JAPAN is fast passing from aggression to defence. The period of treacherous surprise attacks and of easy expansion is over. It is now more true than ever that time has helped the Allied cause. Each day increases the American mass production of arms.

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THE INDO-BURMA FRONTIER. Between BURMA's waterways, the Irrawaddy and the Chindwin, and the parallel course of the Brahmaputra on the Indian side, lie deep-forbidding valleys and densely afforested mountains in the way of the Japanese advance if any should be attempted. Here there are no communications, except those now temporarily opened for British convoys and Indian refugees, and these can more easily closed, if necessary, than roads and railways on the plains. Here with all their penchant for infiltration and jungle-fighting the Japanese will not find it easy to penetrate, especially through the ARAKAN YOMAS and against the warlike mountain tribes—the Arakanese, the Maghas, the Chins, the Shans, the Karins and the Kachins—tougher men than the Burmese of the plains and valleys. Here the enemy can not live on the country for nothing is grown in excess of local needs—and that only by taungye cultivation—that is, clearing a new jungle area, every year and growing some scanty crops thereon.

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'CO-PROSPERITY'. BURMA has begun to experience 'co-prosperity' even before her occupation is complete. On March 21, the Italian radio congratulated JAPAN on the 'booty which

included large stocks of wheat captured in the Irrawaddy triangle', and a day earlier the SAIGON radio announced how 'to the great joy of the Japanese population, two ships carrying food-stuffs, such as rice and sugar arrived in JAPAN from the South Seas.' BERLIN radio revealed in April the existence of a Japanese plan to 'work out the exploitation of BURMA'.

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EVACUATION. In view of irresponsible rumours still circulating about Indian evacuees from BURMA the following facts are worth noting. Out of about 12 lakhs of Indians in BURMA some three lakhs have been safely evacuated, about 50,000 by sea while shipping was short and the rest by land. On the land route food, shelter, water transport and medical assistance were provided in difficult and scarcely accessible country. From the time the refugee arrived at TAMU on the Burmese border, to the moment he reached a railhead in INDIA, everything was provided free. On reaching INDIA, Government and non-official agencies co-operated in receiving him, and sending him home, paying subsistance allowance and railway fare if necessary. An employment bureau has been set up, and schools and universities have changed their curricula, and provided special courses of instruction for the young evacuees who had to break off their studies. The Government of BURMA looks after claims to pay and pension, property and business. No distinction has been made, as has been maliciously alleged, between classes or races.

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OPIUM–THE FOURTH ARM OF THE JAPANESE. We are indebted to Mr. Joseph Kalmer for the following exposure of the diabolic Japanese practice of using opium and its derivatives to debauch and debase a whole nation. He says :—

'The Japanese armoury includes more than land, sea and air-forces. Hard on the heels of the soldiers there follows everywhere an army of narcotics, intended to corrupt the morale and break the resistance of the civil population. Huge quantities of drugs are being poured into the countries of Eastern ASIA at prices that everyone can pay. The retailers are the Japanese Army.'

He adds, 'The Japanese concession at TIENTSEIN has for many years been the headquarters of a vast opium and narcotic industry that has spread its tentacles throughout the FAR EAST. During the last three years this industry has grown to such an extent that the Japanese concession has practically become the heroin capital of the world, and it has led to a growing belief that narcotics are being employed by JAPAN as an instrument of national policy, designed to weaken and debauch the Chinese.'

The effects of opium are well known—mental alienation, depression, loss of self-confidence and moral sense, neglect of duty, and hallucinations.

Contrast with this the following Army Order issued to the Japanese soldiers :—

'The use of narcotics is unworthy of a superior race like the Japanese. Only inferior and decadent races like the Chinese, the Europeans, and the Indonesians are addicted to narcotics. This is why they are destined to become our servants and eventually to disappear. A Japanese soldier who is guilty of using narcotics becomes unworthy to wear the uniform of the Imperial Japanese army and to venerate our divine emperor'.

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THE FRENCH COLONIES. Time was when colonial FRANCE was the second biggest in the world, but after the collapse of FRANCE, the French possessions scattered in different parts of the world have proved weak spots in the defensive armour of the Allies. Hence President Roosevelt's resolve not to allow any French territory in any part of the world to be used by the Axis; hence the British occupation of SYRIA, and MADAGASCAR, the American occupation of NEW CALEDONIA and the negotiations now going on in respect of MARTINIQUE.

Out of half a million square miles of territory that was colonial FRANCE, a quarter is now under the control of the Free French or the United Nations. These include French Equatorial AFRICA, SYRIA, the LEBANON, French INDIA, French South-sea Islands, ST. PIERRE and MIQUELON.

The remaining three-quarters are French INDO-CHINA, French N. W. AFRICA, (from TUNIS to DAKAR), MARTINIQUE, GUADELOUPE, French GUIANA, French SOMALILAND, and until lately, MADAGASCAR. Excluding INDO-CHINA which has passed to the Japanese, and MADAGASCAR on which a British landing has been carried out, the rest is under Vichy control, that is under a trio of Nazi henchmen, Laval who sold INDO-CHINA to JAPAN, Marshal Deat, the protagonist of Vichy-Japanese Collaboration, and Jacques Doriot in German pay. As French colonial administration has always been highly centralised locally French authorities in the colonies have no power of independent action.

Most of these French colonies are strategically situated and well-defended. MADAGASCAR is the GIBRALTAR of the South Indian Ocean; DAKAR is the bottle-neck for all inter-continental traffic between the East and the West and the two hemispheres; MADAGASCAR has at least two warships of which the *Bouganville* was sunk during the recent British occupation; DAKAR, has the *Richelieu*, and CASABLANCA, the *Jean Barte*, two of the biggest French battleships; while MARTINIQUE has the *Bearne*, the big French aircraft-carrier. A submarine supply-service is operating between DJIBUTI and

MADAGASCAR. To leave them in the hands of Vichy– that is, to the unscrupulous machinations of Hitler would be to court for them the fate that overtook French INDO-CHINA and permit chinks in the Allied blockade round the enemies.

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MARTINIQUE. For the sake of old ties of friendship, AMERICA is taking a sympathetic attitude towards Vichy in the matter of MARTINIQUE. The American Note on the subject states that as the present head of the Vichy Government has declared that he would follow a policy of greater collaboration with GERMANY, it is no longer possible for the American Government to maintain previous agreements, consequently AMERICA has imposed the following six conditions :— (1) Immobilisation of French warships and aeroplanes now in ANTILLES (2) Control of radio-telegraphic and postal services (3) Supervision of commercial traffic and travellers (4) Transfer of French merchantships in ANTILLES to the U. S. (5) Limiting the duties of French military and naval forces to police work and (6) Freezing Vichy's gold and Government funds in her colonies.

On behalf of Vichy, Laval has replied that his Government would never act in a manner compromising Vichy's relations with AMERICA, and would give guarantees for the immobilisation of warships and merchantmen provided they were not used by U. S. He however adds that while he is willing to negotiate with WASHINGTON through Admiral Robert, his representative in ANTILLES he would not agree to the proposal that U. S. should carry on direct negotiations with Admiral Robert as it would affect Vichy's sovereignty.

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THE SALZBURG MEETING between Hitler and Mussolini on April 29 looks like window-dressing. The objects of the conference, advertised to the world, are four-fold—to discuss the results of the Russian Winter Offensive, the Mediterranean situation, the Japanese campaign and the Spring Offensive. In spite of the weakening attacks on MALTA, the subsidence of the Axis submarine warfare in the Mediterranean, the arrival of the American Fleet in this sea, and the incessant R. A. F. raids on RHODES, LEROS, BENGHAZI, DERNA and the Italian ports in general, the Axis partners are said to have exchanged mutual congratulalions on the 'increasing pressure on MALTA,' 'the weak state of the Allied Navy in the Mediterranean' and the British 'defeat' in LIBYA. The Russian offensive was conveniently declared to have ended 'in a fiasco', in spite of the fact that according to conservative estimates the German losses in only four months had run to 200,000 killed, a

million sick and wounded, and 300,000 motor vehicles destroyed, the Russians having meanwhile built up 50 new divisions and transferred all their war industries to safe positions eastward.

What Hitler had to say to Mussolini about Japanese victories except to express dismay about the Yellow Peril approaching the West is not easy to surmise, nor is it possible to believe that Mussolini is such a military figure these days for Hitler to consult him on the strategy of the spring campaign, except perhaps to demand levies and supplies.

We suspect, however, that the real object of the meeting was to impose on the world the impression that Mussolini still counted for something in the Axis partnership, and to devise measures to keep down the rising tide of revolt in ITALY. Fondly enough, the Italians look back sorrowfully on their lost empire, and ironically enough still provide for 'ABYSSINIA' in their national budget. With the coming of Laval, their dreams of acquisition of NICE, CORSICA, and SAVOY have faded. The Gestapo has spread its tentacles all over ITALY. 'Down with the war, Down with the Gestapo' is becoming the national slogan. Something had to be done to prop up Mussolini, now universally detested as Hitler's underling, and to make the Italians understand the results of any intransigence. Perhaps also, Hitler now taught Mussolini, his old master, a lesson or two, for on returning from the Conference, Mussolini's first act was to make himself in Hitler-fashion the Chief Justice of ITALY, and to threaten acts of recalcitrance with incarceration.

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THE RIFT IN GERMANY. Nor is Hitler's position in GERMANY very much more enviable, as may be inferred from the following remarks of Mr. W. N. Ewer, diplomatic correspondent of the *Daily Herald* :—

'Hitler's prestige with the great mass of the German people is still as high as ever. It may be shaken by the failure of the offensive in Russia, by the sufferings of the winter, by the growing hardships of daily life, and by the punishing blows of the R. A. F. But a big majority of the people still believe that Hitler's genius will bring victory

'The trouble is among the high-ups of the Army and of the Nazi party. They have lost, or are losing, their faith in the Fuehrer's "intuitions." They see him in a mood of irritation, of indecision, of acute emotional strain. With his authority shaken by this, their own quarrels and rivalries and jealousies are becoming acute.

'Himmler's idea is that Hitler shall gradually become a figurehead; that he himself shall be the real ruler.

"WHAT ARE THE BRITISH DOING?" AN AMERICAN'S ANSWER TO CRITICS.

by

Bert Andrews,

*Washington Correspondent of the New York "**Herald-Tribune**"*

(From Washington by Special Cable.)

Facts and figures obtained from British sources provide a definite reply to Axis propagandists—and a few diehard American sixth columnists—who ask, "what are the British doing?"

The new information does not come under the head "counter-propaganda"; its authenticity is vouched for by American leaders knowing what is going on in the production field, here and elsewhere, of the United Nations.

A study of the latest data from the embattled British Isles, clarifies Lord Halifax's statement that he was "not telling half" in reviewing Britain's war effort for a distinguished New York audience recently, Lord Halifax did not slap the most prevailing Axis whisper to the effect that "if Britain had not taken all American planes and tanks, America would have plenty for her campaigns."

ONE BOMBER ACQUIRED: FIVE EXPORTED.

The facts are that for every bomber and fighter Britain acquired from abroad in 1941, she exported nearly five for the Battle-lines in the Far East, Libya, Russia and elsewhere. Her most impressive record is on tanks. Fifteen tanks were exported by the British Isles for one imported. Britain fell short on the tanks promised to Russia before the end of January by only one tank.

Rumour-mongers argue, "what is the matter with British factories? Why not get going all—out for war production?" The facts are: On all kinds of army supplies production has greatly increased since the outbreak of war. **After Dunkirk production tripled. To-day's production is ten times greater than when Hitler first marched.**

ACTIVITY IN SHIPYARDS.

Naval ships: British shipyards launched in the last quarter of 1941 a quadrupled tonnage compared with the previous quarter-year production before the Hitler aggression. Merchant ships: the rate has doubled since the war. The output of merchant ships slowed only by a great effort for the production of fighter ships Airplanes: 1941 production was three times the 1939 output despite the complicated modern design.

RUMOUR: "America is paying for everything in the war, and Britain is not spending enough."

ANSWER: Britain's war expenditures are at a rate of seventeen billion dollars, from the national income of twenty-five billion dollars yearly. Taxation now takes 40 per cent of the national income. Before the war, Britain spent ten per cent of the national income on armament in 1938—in 1941 she spent 60 per cent of the national income for armaments; capital reserves are also going to the war effort.

EXPORT SITUATION.

RUMOUR: " Britain is keeping up her export trade despite the war."

ANSWER: British exports have been cut in half, and only three per cent of all British workers are now employed in production for export.

RUMOUR: " Britain is still doing a lot of business as usual."

ANSWER: The entire British automobile industry has been converted to war production in August, 1940. The radio industry, which formerly made 2,000,000 sets a year, now makes only 150,000, all for Government and military use. The rest of the radio industry is now making war materials. Seventy-three per cent of the entire toy industry is now directly engaged on war production.

NAVY'S WORK.

RUMOUR:–" what is the British Navy doing ?"

ANSWER: United Kingdom battleships, cruisers, destroyers and submarines accounted for 86 per cent of German and Italian surface war vessels sunk, and for 86 per cent of all enemy submarines destroyed by the United Nations. The Navy did escort duty sending 30,000 war vehicles, and more than 1,00,000 tons of other supplies, to the armies in the middle east alone.

RUMOUR:–" America sent too many planes to Britain."

ANSWER: Eighty-nine per cent of the planes defending the British Isles are British-made. Seventy-five per cent of the planes winning British victories overseas are British-made. Seventy-five per cent of the R. A. F. casualties were of airmen from the United Kingdom.

KEYNOTE OF FIGHTER COMMAND "ATTACK—ATTACK—AND AGAIN ATTACK"

by

Wing-Commander L. V. Fraser.

With the advent of finer weather, the R. A. F. Fighter Command's 1942 spring offensive has begun—on a scale unprecedented in Western Europe, if not in the whole history of air warfare. In face of this ceaseless rain of blows from the skies over its own territory, the *Luftwaffe* has had to concentrate on its western front at least 50 per cent of its total fighter strength,

although these aircraft are badly needed in the east. **Thus one of the main objects of the R. A. F. Fighter Command's offensive—to give direct aid to Russia—is being effectively realised.**

Very many more squadrons have been used in just one day's sweeps over the occupied countries than could have been put in the air during the Battle of Britain. That was achieved, and is being achieved, without in any way reducing the number of the Fighter Command's shipping protection patrols, or weakening the air defence "on the spot" of this country. That is a side-light on the present-day power of the Fighter Command—a formidable power which would have been even greater, but for the aircraft sent to Russia and the Eastern theatres of war.

"OPERATIONAL WEATHER."

April brought the "operational weather" for which the Fighter Command had been waiting. Of the first 21 days of this month, 14 have been operational. And more than 40 large-scale sweeps have been carried out in this period, 16 of them with forces of Bostons or bomb-carrying Hurricanes, which attacked airfields, shipyards, factory buildings and railway marshalling-yards. Perfect cover was provided by British Spitfires, and the success of fighter-bombers prompts the question, "Why are aircraft with much heavier bomb-loads not taken on these operations?" The answer is that bombers can be more damagingly used at night on industrial targets in Germany itself, which are beyond fighter range at present.

The brunt of the fighter offensives naturally falls on Spitfire pilots. They did not expect, and did not want, the *Luftwaffe* to yield the skies over the occupied countries without resistance. But the infant Fighter Command can establish local air superiority at will. In the Hurricane bomb attack on the Marquise shell-filling factory "there was no combat ... enemy aircraft in general showed no desire to engage ...". During the Bostons' raid on a power plant near Rouen "those enemy aircraft which where seen dived away on sighting our aircraft and no combat took place ...". There are combats, of course, but not so many as the R. A. F. would like.

Since the Battle of Britain, hundreds of new pilots have joined the Fighter Command, and the present offensive operations provide them with valuable experience, and instil in them the attacking spirit. That is the keynote of the Fighter Command to-day—attack, attack and again attack.

AMERICAN PRODUCTION.

by

Edward Montgomery.

In parallel with the thinking and planning which is now going on in Washington on the strategic side for offensive action by the United States in the principal theatres of war, there is much thinking and planning on the American home-front. This is concerned at the moment with war-production, inflation, and man-power.

Though few statistics can be given, there is a general impression that American war production is now really beginning to come into full swing. **An Administration official speaking in New York said that for every 50 aircraft scheduled to be produced at this time under the 1942 programme, 84 were actually being produced.**

SOARING EXPENDITURE.

Deductions from figures of money spent can sometimes be misleading, but they at least provide some indication of the rate of expansion. The Director of the Budget has reported that expenditures on the war programme in the fiscal year ending next **June, will show an increase of two billion dollars over the estimated amount of 26 to 28 billions, and that in the following fiscal year they will be 14 billions higher than had been estimated—an increase from 56 to 70 billions.**

If these figures are a reliable guide, they indicate that American production for the war programme alone will this year **overshoot the scheduled amount by eight per cent, and next year by 25 per cent.** These are encouraging figures, but it would be unwise to regard them over-optimistically. Although the overall rate of production may be increasing, this is not helpful if it is to result in over-expansion in production in certain categories of war material while others lag behind schedule, and thus create both production and strategic bottlenecks.

SHIPBUILDING INDUSTRY.

Such a situation seems to be for the moment developing in the shipbuilding industry, which, the President indicated, had fallen somewhat behind schedule. Coming at this particular time, when the Allies have need of every ship they can lay their hands on, this might be serious, unless prompt measures are taken, as they undoubtedly will be. Shipping losses, especially in the West Atlantic, have been high, and the tremendous extension of the drain upon the shipping resources of the United Nations has been increased by the events of the Pacific war. **The production crisis in 1940 was in aircraft; in 1941 in tanks; and the crisis in 1942 is in ships.**

NOTICE.

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OF THE

Pudukkottai State National War Front Bureau.

LECTURE XCVI—(*Batch 3*).

1942—			
May	...23, Saturday ...	Town Hall ...	6.30 p. m
	24, Sunday ...	Alangudi ...	6.00 p. m.
		Kottaikkadu ...	6.30 p. m.
	25, Monday ...	Annavasal ...	6.00 p. m.
		Kilakkurichchi ...	6.30 p. m.
	26, Tuesday ...	Ramachandrapuram ...	6.00 p. m.
		Rayavaram ...	6.30 p. m.
	27, Wednesday.	Malaiyur ...	6.00 p. m.
		Karambakkudi ...	6.30 p. m.
	28, Thursday ...	Valaramanikkam ...	6.00 p. m.
		Embal ...	6.30 p. m.
	29, Friday ...	P. Puduppatti ...	6.00 p. m.
		Vendampatti ...	6.30 p. m.

LECTURE XCVII—(*Batch 4*).

	30, Saturday ...	Town Hall ...	6.30 p. m.
	31, Sunday ...	Nirpalani ...	6.00 p. m.
		Avoor ...	6.30 p. m.
June	... 1, Monday ...	Karaiyur ...	6.00 p. m.
		Idaiyattur ...	6.30 p. m.
	2, Tuesday ...	Andakkulam ...	6.00 p. m.
		Killanur ...	6.30 p. m.
	3, Wednesday.	Kiranur ...	6.00 p. m.
		Nanjur ...	6.30 p. m.
	4, Thursday ...	Vadavalam ...	6.00 p. m.
		Sammattividuthi ...	6.30 p. m.
	5, Friday ...	Nartamalai ...	6.00 p. m.
		Uppiliyakkudi ...	6.30 p. m.

Sri Brihadamba State Press, Pudukkottai. 1,000—24-5-42.